

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the comments set forth fully below. Claims 1-20, 22, 23 and 35-39 were pending. Within the Office Action, Claims 1-20, 22, 23 and 35-39 have been rejected. Claims 1-20, 22, 23 and 35-39 are now pending.

Objections To The Drawings

Within the Office Action, the drawings have been objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character 520 has been used to designate mobile tube, waste tube and holes. By the above amendment, Figure 9 and the accompanying text on page 13 of the specification, have been amended to change the reference character 520 in Figure 9 to the reference character 920. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Within the Office Action, the drawings have been objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character 530 has been used to designate both gas fitting and waste tube system. By the above amendment, Figure 9 and the accompanying text on page 13 of the specification, have been amended to change the reference character 530 in Figure 9 to the reference character 930. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Double Patenting

Within the Office Action, Claims 1-20, 22, 23 and 35-39 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-20 and 22-26 of U.S. Patent No. 6,270,730. The Applicants respectfully submit a timely filed terminal disclaimer attached hereto to effectively remove the double patenting rejections of Claims 1-20, 22, 23 and 35-39.

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: NEI-00106

For the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are now in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, they are encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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